

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) Method of preparing an organic luminescent material comprising the steps of depositing a thin film of organic luminescent substance on a solid inert support, then heat-treating (annealing) the deposited substance at a predetermined temperature ~~[[and]]~~ in a humidified or anhydrous atmosphere and, finally, returning to room temperature keeping the substance in the same atmosphere.
2. (original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the humidified atmosphere is an atmosphere of oxygen, nitrogen, air, inert gas or mixture thereof, containing more than 50% moisture, or of anhydrous oxygen, nitrogen, or inert gas or mixtures thereof.
3. (original) Method according to claim 2, wherein the annealing is performed at a predetermined temperature ranging from 120°C to 180°C for a period of time of 5 to 30 minutes, followed by returning to room temperature in a time not longer than 5 minutes.
4. (original) Method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined temperature of annealing is the temperature producing the maximum increase of the emission intensity of the film.
5. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 4, wherein the organic luminescent substance is a photoluminescent or electroluminescent substance selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~ tris-(8-hydroxyquinoline) aluminum (Alq3), phenoxy-bis-(8- hydroxyquinoline) aluminum (Alq2-OPh), 5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21H, 23H-porphine/Alq3 (TPP)/Alq3 complex, functionally equivalent substances ~~[[or]]~~ and mixtures thereof.
6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 5, wherein the organic luminescent substance optionally comprises one or more substances selected from the group consisting of tetracene, anthracene, carbazole, rubrene, TBD, PKV, DMC, α -6T ~~[[or]]~~

and Er(TTA)₃(phen) and/or one or more phenolic compounds capable of stabilizing luminescence selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~ phenol, vanillin, L-tyrosine, butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), vitamin E, propyl gallate, 2,4,6-tri-*t*-butylphenol, hydroxytyrosine, and caffeic acid.

7. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the film of organic luminescent substance is generated by evaporating/sublimating under vacuum the luminescent substance and depositing the vapors on an inert flat support of glass, crystal, plastics material or any other substance compatible with adsorption, emission and detection of light.

8. (original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the organic luminescent substance comprises Alq₃, the annealing is performed at about 150°C for about 10 minutes, the humidified atmosphere is water-saturated air and after annealing the film is returned to room temperature in the same atmosphere in a time not longer than 5 minutes.

9. (original) Method of stabilizing the luminescence of an organic photoluminescent or electroluminescent substance comprising annealing the substance at a predetermined temperature in a humidified or anhydrous atmosphere and then returning to room temperature keeping the substance in the same atmosphere.

10. (original) Method according to claim 9, wherein the humidified atmosphere is an atmosphere of oxygen, nitrogen, air, inert gas or mixture thereof containing more than 50% moisture, or the anhydrous atmosphere is an atmosphere of oxygen, nitrogen, inert gas or mixture thereof.

11. (original) Method according to claim 10, wherein the annealing is performed at a predetermined temperature ranging from 120° to 180°C for a period of time of 5 to 30 minutes, followed by returning to room temperature in a time not longer than 5 minutes.

12. (original) Method according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined temperature of annealing is the temperature producing the maximum increase of the emission intensity of the film.

13. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the claims 9 to 12~~ claim 9, wherein the organic luminescent substance is a photoluminescent or electroluminescent substance selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~ tris-(-8-hydroxyquinoline) aluminum (Alq3), phenoxy-bis-(-8-hydroxyquinoline) aluminum (Alq2-OPh), 5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21H, 23H-porphine/Alq3 (TPP)/Alq3 complex, functionally equivalent substances ~~[[or]]~~ and mixtures thereof.

14. (currently amended) Method according to claim 13, wherein the organic luminescent substance optionally comprises one or more substances selected from the group consisting of tetracene, anthracene, carbazole, rubrene, TBD, PKV, DMC, α -6T ~~[[or]]~~ and Er(TTA)₃(phen) and/or one or more phenolic compounds capable of stabilizing luminescence selected from the group consisting of ~~comprising~~ phenol, vanillin, L-tyrosine, BHA, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), vitamin E, propyl gallate, 2,4,6-tri-*t*-butylphenol, hydroxytyrosol, and caffeic acid.

15. (original) Method according to claim 14, wherein the organic luminescent substance subjected to annealing is in form of film deposited on an inert flat support of glass, crystal, plastics material or any other substance compatible with adsorption, emission and detection of light.

16. (original) Method according to claim 9, wherein the organic luminescent substance comprises Alq3, the annealing is performed at about 150°C for about 10 minutes, the humidified atmosphere is water-saturated air and after annealing the film is returned to room temperature in the same atmosphere in a time not longer than 5 minutes.

17. (currently amended) Organic luminescent material having a stabilized

luminescence, obtainable by the method of preparing according to ~~to any one of the claims 1 to 8 or the method of stabilizing according to any one of the claims 9 to 16~~ claim 8 and being in a crystalline phase different from that of the original luminescent substance.

18. (original) Organic luminescent material having luminescence stabilized with the method of stabilizing according to claim 16 and being in a crystalline phase different from that of the original luminescent substance.

19. (currently amended) Film of organic luminescent material according to claim 17 ~~or 18~~, deposited on an inert support.

20. (original) Film of organic luminescent material according to claim 18, deposited on an inert support.

21. (original) Luminescent device comprising the film according to claim 19.

22. (original) Luminescent device comprising the film according to claim 20.

23. (new) Sealed atmospheric agent proof system comprising the device according to claim 21 in an inert atmosphere.

24. (new) Sealed atmospheric agent proof system comprising the device according to claim 22 in an inert atmosphere.

25. (new) Use of device according to claim 21 for the preparation of electrooptic articles.

26. (new) Use of system according to claim 23 for the preparation of electrooptic articles.